

IT'S THE **END** OF MAIL DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR

A bill being considered by Congress, H.R. 2309, would end direct mail delivery for 90 percent of homes and businesses in the U.S. that now receive doorstep delivery.

The severe cuts in postal services that would be forced on Americans by this bill, including losing Saturday delivery and seeing thousands of post offices closed and hundreds of processing plants shut (like the one in Hampden), are all the more egregious because they are not necessary.

Despite a drumbeat of media myth-making to the contrary, the Postal Service is still very busy. Letter carriers deliver 170 billion pieces of mail each year. The Postal Service is at the center of this country's \$1.3 trillion mailing industry. The Postal Service earned a net profit of \$611 million delivering the mail in fiscal years 2007-10, despite the worst recession in 80 years. So where does its red ink come from?

Back in 2006, a lame-duck Congress passed a law requiring the Postal Service to set aside more than \$5 billion a year to pre-fund future retiree health benefits for the next 75 years and do so within a decade. The mandate did not correct a deficiency; the agency's future liabilities were already on solid ground. No other government agency or private business was required to do this. The \$21 billion diverted to pre-funding thus far accounts for 84 percent of the Postal Service's debt. Congress manufactured this crisis and can easily fix it—by ending the pre-funding chokehold on postal finances.

How to **SAVE AMERICA'S POSTAL SERVICE**

**Welcome to a Community Teach-In sponsored
by Occupy Ellsworth and local postal workers & customers.**

- **February 1st (Wednesday) at 7:00 pm**
- **Ellsworth City Hall** (1 City Hall Plaza / upstairs meeting room)
- **Free Admission & Refreshments**

Congress created the financial crisis at the Postal Service, and Congress can fix it—WITHOUT drastic cuts in service or massive layoffs, and at no cost to taxpayers. Learn more through live discussion, video clips, and a question/answer period with knowledgeable experts.

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